

by a foveate groove and very finely punctato-aciculate, the bisecting groove wider and marginate.

Legs in general as in male but without modifications. Fore tarsi not flattened but somewhat compressed and with heavy sericeous pile beneath. Middle and hind tibiae more strongly spinose on outer faces; middle tibiae with a distinct apical calcar; middle metatarsi straight, elongate, subequal in length to four distal segments combined, and without row of spinules beneath. Longer hind tibial calcar one-half length of slender, compressed, elongate hind metatarsi which are one and an eighth the length of four distal segments combined.

Abdomen fusiform. Last tergite with pygidial area narrowed, excavate and canaliculate apically, the lateral margins with fringes of aeneous setulae.

This insular form is apparently generally distributed throughout New Caledonia.

**ATRICHOLAELOPS MEGAVENTRALIS, A NEW SPECIES OF
PARASITIC MITE (Acarina, Laelaptidae)**

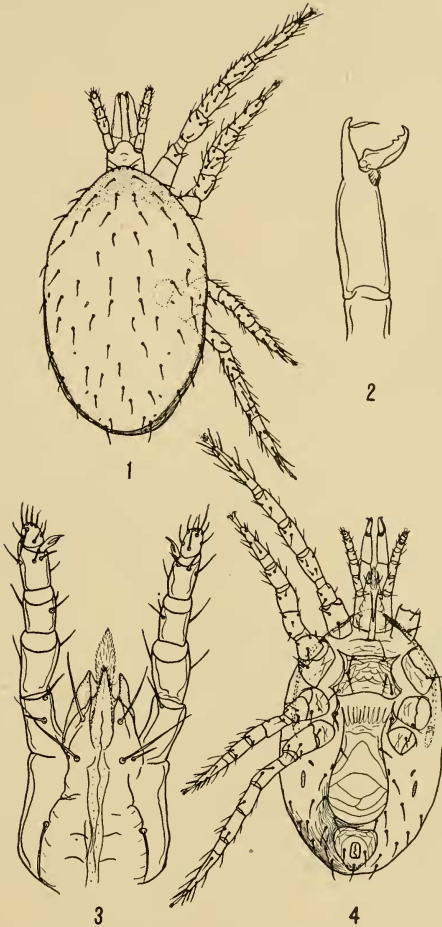
BY R. W. STRANDTMANN

*Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health, University of
Texas School of Medicine, Galveston, Texas*

In the collection of *Atricholaelops* loaned to me for study by the U. S. National Museum was a series of a distinctive species long recognized as new by both H. E. Ewing and E. W. Baker, but which for one reason or another remained undescribed. Recently this mite has been sent in frequently from various typhus research projects for determination and a name for it has become necessary. I wish to extend my thanks to the above mentioned men and to H. B. Morlan, H. D. Pratt, R. B. Eads, and others who have so kindly sent me additional specimens.

***Atricholaelops megaventralis*, new species**

FEMALE.—Length, exclusive of gnathasoma, about 665 μ ; width about 431 μ . Ventral side (Fig. 4): The sternal plate is similar to that of other species of the genus. It is broader than long, averaging 119 μ wide by 92 μ long at the narrowest points. It bears the usual three pairs of setae and two pairs of pores. The endopodal plates are distinct but quite slender. The genitoventral plate is very large for the genus and closely approaches the anal plate. It bears one pair of setae and has the usual configuration of light lines. Its length, when measured from the base of the sternal plate is about 226 μ . The width at the widest point is 154 μ . The anal plate is roundly triangular with a slightly concave anterior margin. The anus is nearer the posterior seta than to the anterior margin. It measures 98 μ from the anterior margin to the posterior seta and about 105 μ in width at the widest point. There are



Atricholaelaps megaventralis, n. sp. 1. Dorsum of female. 2. Chelicera.
3. Venter of gnathosoma. 4. Venter of female.

three small metapodal platelets. The smallest lies close to the genito-ventral plate and just above the second pair of setae. The other two are about midway between the genitoventral plate and the outer margin of the body. The larger of these two is elongated and quite narrow. The soft portion of the venter is finely wrinkled and bears 10 to 12 pairs of setae. The peritreme extends to the middle of the first pair of coxae.

The *dorsal side* is almost completely covered by the dorsal plate. This plate is covered with a network of fine lines, as is indicated in Figure 1 by the dotted lines at the anterior end. It bears about 34 pairs of relatively short setae and several pairs of pores, some of which are fairly large and elongate.

The legs are somewhat more slender and bear finer setae than other members of the genus. The heaviest setae are on the tarsi of legs II and III. The apical margin of coxa I shows a faint and irregular serration in properly mounted specimens. The apical margin of coxa II has a small triangular tooth at the anterior side as do all other species of the genus.

The *gnathasoma* is adequately illustrated in figure 3. The fixed chela (Fig. 2) is slightly notched at the tip but this is visible only when the chelicera is mounted in the proper plane. The *pilus dentilus* is only very slightly inflated. The movable chela, as in the other known species, has two teeth below the apex and has a circle of small setae at its base.

The *male* and *immature stages* are as yet unknown.

This is a light brown species with relatively weak and short setation. It may be clearly differentiated from all other described members of the genus by the slightly inflated, nearly straight seta on the fixed chela, and by the greatly extended genitoventral plate.

I have designated as type one of three specimens mounted on a slide bearing the following data:

"On Gray squirrel; Georgia. October 1 and November 11, 1935. H. Hixson, Colr."

This slide has been deposited in the United States National Museum together with a number of paratypes.

Apparently this mite is quite catholic in its tastes but judging from the material I have at hand it would seem that they have a slight preference for squirrels. I have seen specimens from Fox squirrel, Gray squirrel, *Sciurus c. carolinensis*, *Rattus norvegicus*, *R. rattus*, *R. alexandrinus*, *Sigmodon hispidus*, *Mus musculus*, and a few from various birds including Downy woodpecker, Pileated woodpecker, Red-bellied woodpecker, Redheaded woodpecker, Starling, English sparrow, and one from a Cliff swallow's nest. The following states are represented in this collection: Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia and Washington, D. C.